

Vocational Guidance

By Mary Tisley Daly

Perhaps it's just chance that in the three different schools attended by our children, they were all asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

"We had to get up in front of the whole classroom and say what we want to be!" Ginny's smallest experience always blows up into something dramatic by the time she recounts it at home. "Sean Dorsey is gonna be a doctor," she went on, "and make everybody well!"



Mary Tisley Daly

"What'd you tell 'em?" the Head of the House asked.

"Well, I said I hadn't quite decided yet whether I wanted to be a mother or a Sister of Charity." (This, in a class taught by a Sister of the Holy Cross; Ginny is not headed for diplomacy, at any rate.)

AS TO HER wanting to be a Sister of Charity or any other, well, Ginny is only seven. Ideas change . . . but we're glad to find that she is at least thinking along this direction. We're glad, too, that even the seed of vocational thought—vocation in all its aspects, not just Religious—is being implanted at an early age. These children will know that God has some particular work by which each individual will serve Him best.

Of greater interest, of course, is the stressing of this thought in the high schools, where thought is near fruition. There, we believe, tremendous strides have been made since our day—olden days, according to the present generation.

At that time there was but a half-hearted attempt to study aptitudes of individual students. If your parents could afford to send you to college, you took "college preparatory"; if high school ended formal education, you took "business" if you were a girl, manual training or accounting if you were a boy; if you were "holly"—even going to daily Mass put you in this category—everybody bent over backward to steer you into the seminary or the convent.

THAT'S ABOUT all the vocational guidance there was. After high school you took the first job offered and floundered around frustratedly trying to find the proper niche. Some found it, some didn't.

And of course there were no courses in marriage—considered rather a by-product.

Things have changed for the better—but definitely—in the schools with a realistic approach to the subject of vocations of all sorts. There are periodic aptitude tests, the scientific approach; but there are also constant human-interest checkings by way of friendly talks with pupils by discerning consultants.

There is, moreover, a recognition and encouragement of the tremendous enthusiasm of youth to forge its way through mazes of ideas, to make a real contribution to contemporary life.

UNFORTUNATELY, now as in the past, that same recognition and encouragement are too often absent on the part of those who have arrived at the top in various callings. Rather, it seems, the opposite prevails: the pooh-poohing of anyone who doesn't fall into line with the ultra-conservative ideas of those in the saddle.

These people seem to forget that it was their own zeal and courage—call it liberalism if you will—that enabled them to cut through the morass of conservatism of their day.

Now they are the conservatives, jealously guarding their own positions, with ears and eyes closed to change, resenting the "young upstarts" eager to re-visit older business, older professions, even the Church itself, with new forward-looking ideas.

Teenagers Show Modest Fashions



"MARY, QUEEN OF STYLE" San Francisco Teenage Catholic school girls model evening clothes designed to "return modesty to the fashion world" at one of two fashion shows at St. Paul's High School. Some 400 girls and their mothers attended each of the showings of 73 approved dresses and suits which met a fashion criterion set by the "Supply The Demand for the Supply" movement spreading among many Catholic high schools across the country. The modest campaign has been under way in San Francisco's 15 Catholic girls' high schools with the approval of the San Francisco Archdiocese. Seen in background is a statue of Mary, Queen of Style, who represented the girls' model. (Religious News Service Photo)

AMONG WOMEN

'Reporter'

By Mary Lennon Snyder

In the days of my elementary schooling at St. Mary's in Elmira, we betide the tactless Sister, who newly arrived in our midst, tried to calm our unruliness or to curb our wilfulness with an account of how her previous class in Rochester had conducted it.



Mrs. Snyder

Although we dutifully realized that for us the seat of Church and scholastic authority was in Rochester, most of us harbored a secret resentment toward that city of youthful paragons of perfection as nostalgically portrayed by the new teacher.

AND NOW I feel that I removed in time and distance from the city of my birth, run a similar risk in extolling the glories and virtues of Elmira.

Working together—teachers, parents, the world outside—perhaps it will be possible for us to channel that youthful enthusiasm with its altruistic ideals into fruitful production. With wise vocational consideration and guidance, there might be fewer square pegs in round holes.

ing monthly projects for the year 1953-1954.

Recipients are directed to file the clip sheet and the following comment is made: The reason for supplying this copy of the program to you is this: If you know in advance what special project is coming up for your society for the next month, you can get set for it before the meeting night and be ready to work on it.

"Further, the committee in charge of the special project will have ample time to prepare recommendations for carrying it out."

I DO NOT know who is on the "Reporter's" mailing list, but I sincerely hope that the president of each deanery council receives one because it is a fine example of what can be accomplished with careful planning and hard work.

Then follow reports of the inter-parochial societies, the Ladies of Charity, Court St. Rita, Catholic Daughters of America, and the Ladies of Columbus.

Next follows a report of the parochial societies which make interesting and genuinely challenging reading; for we find ourselves reasoning—"If that church organization did it, we can". The bulletin, six pages in all, concludes with St. Christopher Library Notes and a calendar of coming events in the deanery.

IN HIS MESSAGE the moderator referred to a clip sheet which was included in the March issue. This was a list of special monthly projects and the sustain-

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